

REMARKS

The office action of February 6, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Weyer et al.

Claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Weyer et al.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 1-2.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods and constructions disclosed in the reference.

Turning now to the reference, it can be seen that the patent to Weyer et al. discloses a method for adjusting a continuous casting installation roll segment. Weyer et al. do not disclose or suggest installing the roller segments in the cold bar zone, the hot bar zone, and/or the soft reduction zone and operating the roller segments by an automatic segment control system and a basic automation system so that the method is applied to roller segments of continuous bloom and billet casting machines, as in the presently claimed invention. The roller segments of Weyer et al. are not installed as in the present invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 1-3(a) over



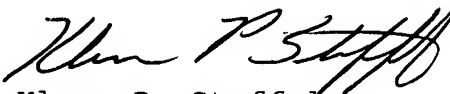
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the above-discussed reference are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 6, 2007.

By:   
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Date: June 6, 2007